

## **Donnarummo, Taryn**

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**From:** RICHARD SHULTZ <richardshultz@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 1, 2024 2:20 PM  
**To:** Ellison, Seesa; Donnarummo, Taryn; kbivens@hamden.com; lgarrett@hamden.com; Cross, John; Ariola, Tom; Highsmith, Gary; Nicole Johnson; JP Leonardo; John Kittrell; awebber@hamden.org; kbivens@hamden.org  
**Cc:** Colin McDonough; Matt McDonough; Mark Fisc; chris donlin; Chris DeMatteo; Janet Dorr; Ken Butricks; Quiara Turner; Rich Leonardo; sweetenk1@southernct.edu; Arnie Mann; Arnie Mann  
**Subject:** RE: Hamden Fathers Basketball-Rental Costs for Hamden Middle School on Sundays  
**Attachments:** BOE Letter Signed.pdf

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Good afternoon everyone;

We understand that there is a Board of Education Special Operations Committee Meeting tonight.

Hamden Fathers Basketball is requesting what the rental rate for the HMS gym usage on Sundays.

My attached letter raises some of our concerns with our Hamden youth players.

If we could determine a rental cost perhaps we could seek donations from sponsors.

We would be using the gym for our High School 15-17 year old league and for our Travel Teams.

We do understand budget constraints the Board of Education presently has.

We also need to have access to the gym in the future and would suggest to the Town of Hamden seek funding through grants as other municipalities have done to receive funding for their programs. We are a Town program with Town youth and we've been Chartered through the Town since 1955.

The future of our program lies in the balance moving forward. When our program began the Hamden Parks & Recreation Department ran the league and paid all costs for insurance, gym attendants, scorers and referees which we now pay out of our budget and have since the late 1970's. We have increased our rates by \$10 to make get our budget to break even. With the advent of rental costs we may have to consider handing the league operations back over to the Town of Hamden.

Our gym usage request will be going to the meeting tonight as it is on the agenda. I would like this email and letter brought up at the BOE Finance Committee Meeting & Board of Education Meeting during their next meetings on October 10.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Richard Shultz**

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From The Desk of Richard K Shultz  
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HAMDEN FATHERS BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

September 26, 2024

**RE: Hamden Fathers Basketball- Rental Costs of Hamden Middle School**

To The Hamden Board of Education;

This letter is to ask the BOE what the rental costs would be to use Hamden Middle School on Sundays. We would use the gym for our High School Boys League & Travel Basketball teams.

The High School League came into being in 1973. At that time we were using Hamden High School. Travel Basketball has become an important element of our program. It helps our players develop their skills against better competition. Those games are on Sundays. Our league rule is that travel players must play on their recreational teams on Saturday to be eligible for Sundays. We are one of the few towns left that offers a full recreation program starting at age 5 while still offering a respected high level travel program.

Hamden Fathers Basketball Travel Program is the feeder program for both the Boys & Girls teams at Hamden High School. The Girls team has now won back to back LL State Championships mostly with players from our league. The 3 All-State players from last year's team are all alumni of our Travel Team.

Our high school league is comprised of many at risk young men aged 15-17. This is one of their few outlets for athletics. The competitiveness on Sundays is great to watch. They play with enthusiasm and hang out all day in the gym until the last game concludes.

As life long Hamden residents, our E-Board members recognize the importance of a safe place for our Town's youth, particularly on the weekends when school is not in session.

We recognize your budget constraints, however we feel we should not deny the importance of extracurricular activities for our Town's youth. We appreciate your consideration and support  
If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely Yours;



Richard K Shultz Sr.  
President  
Hamden Fathers Basketball Association  
Established by the Town of Hamden in 1955  
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CC: File